



OHS BULLETIN

34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2

Issue 118 • FEBRUARY 1999

Update on preserving Land Registry Office documents

Members of the OHS will already be aware of the Society's concern for the preservation of the Land Registry office documents for the Province of Ontario. As early as 1983 Dr. Wesley Turner, then OHS President alerted our membership in the OHS Bulletin article "POLARIS Endangers Land Records." Over the last 16 years the OHS and many of our heritage partners have continued to lobby for the continued retention of the documents. The Ontario Heritage Alliance, comprised of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc., Archives Association of Ontario, Ontario Archaeological Society, Ontario Black History Society, Ontario Genealogical Society, The Ontario Historical Society, Ontario Museum Association, Save Ontario Shipwrecks, and the Société franco-ontarienne d'histoire et de généalogie recently sent the following letter to Ian Wilson, Archivist of Ontario, and Ian Veitch Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to clarify and confirm our position on this important issue:

At its meeting of January 11, 1999 the Ontario Heritage Alliance unanimously agreed to the positions outlined below in its discussions concerning the future of Ontario's land registry records. The Alliance acknowledges the contribution made by APOLROD and its role in facilitating the process of the identification and location of LRO records. We would like to bring to your attention the following points:

1. The fundamental principle is the preservation of the original

land registry documents in perpetuity.

2. If agreement is reached concerning the dispersal of records, they should be deposited in areas as geographically close as possible to their area of provenance.
3. Records can only be transferred to suitable repositories possessing modern archival preservation specifications.
4. Public access and preservation should be clearly outlined in any transfer documents between the Government of Ontario and a designated repository.
5. LRO documents should be microfilmed *before* their transfer.

True progress on these difficult LRO issues can only be achieved in a co-operative and candid environment of mutual respect. The groups of the Ontario Heritage Alliance and their significant memberships must have a voice in any decisions that are being made regarding these records, including the creation of policy and procedures governing LRO documents, and we must be equal participants in this process.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and we look forward to meeting with you on March 8.

Sincerely, Lise Ferguson,
Director, Ontario Archaeological Society on behalf of the Ontario Heritage Alliance.
c.c.Hon. Isabel Bassett, MCzCR,
Hon. David Tsubouchi, MCCR

Representatives of the Archives of Ontario and the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations have responded to the invitation of the Ontario Heritage Alliance to attend the meeting on March 8 to discuss these important issues. We will be updating our members in the next issue of the OHS Bulletin.



The Ontario Historical Society presented Dr. Sally Cole (left) of Concordia University with the 1998 Riddell Award at the "Giving the Past a Future: A Conference on Innovation in Teaching and Learning History," held in Montreal in January, as Dr. Cole was unable to attend the Honours and Awards ceremony last year. (Robert Leverty)

Friends of the Ontario Archives

Rowena Cooper

The year 1899 was auspicious for the OHS. Not only did President James H. Coyne launch the first edition of the Society's *Papers and Records*, he also established committees to look at the creation of an archives, museum and library for the Province. The archives committee was chaired by George Pattulo with Andrew F. Hunter serving as secretary. During the first year of its mandate the committee made great strides in persuading the provincial government to take greater care of vital statistics registers and make them available to genealogists.

By 1902 the committee had convinced Premier Ross to look after early municipal records and managed to persuade him that Ontario lagged behind other provinces in the collection and preservation of other historical material. In early 1903 Colonel Alexander Fraser the former editor of the *Toronto Mail and Empire* was commissioned to examine the Quebec Archives prior to establishing a similar facility in Ontario. By July 8, 1903 an order-in-council had named Fraser Ontario's first Provincial Archivist.

A century later, 1999 marks another important milestone in the hard-fought battle to save Ontario's history. It is time for historians and genealogists to show their tangible support for the Archives of Ontario and to increase awareness of the important role the Archives plays in

preserving the documentary history of our great Province.

Over the past year a group of dedicated individuals has met as a steering committee to make plans for the launching of a new association, the Friends of the Ontario Archives. There are six main objectives that the "friends"

might like to consider:

- To foster awareness and appreciation of the Archives of Ontario and documentary heritage in general as to its importance in understanding Ontario's history and development.
- To further the understanding,

continued page 2

The President and Board of Directors
of The Ontario Historical Society
invites you to attend the
Annual Business Meeting
to be held
Saturday, May 8, 1999 at 2:00 P.M.
at the John McKenzie House
34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale

IN THIS ISSUE

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Dear Minister p.6
Carvers create niche at
the Windsor Wood
Carving Museum p.6
Fun fundraiser p.6
Farewell to David
McFall p.3
History rewards Backus
with national
designation p.6
Lost Augustine
Cemetery found p.5
Millennium calendar
fundraiser p.8
Money Matters! p.8
Royal remembrances p.8
The Bush-Ladies p.4
We're still waiting p.5
War brides project p.8

REGULAR FEATURES:

- Across the Province p.3
Cemetery News p.5
Executive Director's
Report p.2
From the Bookshelf p.7
Museum News p.6
President's Message p.2
Upcoming Events p.4
Upcoming OHS Events p.4
We gratefully
acknowledge p.2
Welcome new members p.2

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President's Message

Bruce Richard, President

Welcome to 1999! As we approach the end of the century let us hope that we can share in the recognition and celebration of what has been an incredible one hundred years. Millennium celebrations are being planned, and both Provincial and Federal funding programmes are underway. We can take pride that our communities will come together, honour their past and look forward to their future.

The OHS will be involved in a range of activities around the Millennium celebrations and look forward to your participation.

With changing years come changes in our administration at the Society. As President and Chair of the Search Committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome a new editor for *Ontario History*. Dr. Gabriele Scardellato brings to the position a lengthy and successful career in scholarly and other publishing including editorial positions with other journals, service with editorial advisory committees, and similar experience.

He also has published extensively, in particular in the field of Canadian immigration history, with a special focus on Italian-Canadian history. His most recent volume in that field was *Within Our Temple: A History of the Order Sons of Italy of Ontario* (Toronto, 1995).

He is currently editing a collection of essays on regional immigration from Italy to Canada to be published by the Canadian Immigration Commemorative Association in collaboration with the Department of Italian Studies at the University of Toronto. Dr. Scardellato is an adjunct professor in that department where he lectures on Italian-Canadian history and related topics.

Dr. Terry Crowley, the outgoing editor of *Ontario History*, will be remembered with gratitude for his many years of dedicated service to the journal as a contributor, advisory committee member, assistant editor, and then editor from 1996-1998. Thank you very much, Dr. Crowley.

Friends of the Archives continued from page 1

communication and co-operation between the Archives of Ontario and the people of Ontario.

- To assist the Archives of Ontario in acquiring resource materials.
- To assist the Archives of Ontario in the acquisition, preservation and study of its collections.
- To promote and support various public education activities on Ontario's documentary heritage.
- To monitor developments in archival activities in Ontario and elsewhere.

You are invited to become a charter member of the Friends of the Ontario Archives and help preserve an important segment of our provincial heritage.

Annual Membership fees are \$25 for an individual; \$40 for a family; \$15 for a senior (age 60+) or a full-time student; \$50 for an

institution and \$100 for a corporation.

The first annual meeting of the Friends of the Ontario Archives will be on Saturday March 27, 1999 at 2:00 P.M. in the George Ignatieff Theatre at Trinity College, University of Toronto, 15 Devonshire Avenue, Toronto (between Bloor and Hoskin Avenue).

The special guest speaker for the inaugural meeting will be Dr. J.L. Granastein, O.C., Director of the National War Museum and author of *Who Killed Canadian History?* Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting and learn more about the Friends of the Ontario Archives. For information contact: The Friends of the Archives of Ontario, 77 Grenville Street, Unit 300, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1B3.

Welcome new members

The OHS welcomes new members

Coboconk: Janet A. Moffett
Collingwood: Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee
Gravenhurst: Muskoka Steamship and Historical Society
Kemptville: Richard Limmert
Kingsville: Ken Turner
Maidstone: Olde Sandwich South & Area Historical Society
Marathon: Marathon & District Historical Society
Mount Pleasant: Heritage Mount Pleasant
North Buxton: The Buxton Historical Society

North York: Mr. and Mrs. C. Warren Goldring
Orillia: O.P.P. Museum
Ottawa: Robert F. Watson
Port Dover: Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Muth
Port Perry: Scugog Shores Historic Village and Archives
Richmond Hill: Nelda F. Flood, Rose Kessler
Toronto: Toronto Historical Association
Welland: Welland Historical Society

To say we live in times of transition does not seem to adequately describe what is going on around us in the heritage community as this new year begins. At the OHS our telephone and fax lines are constantly humming and our mail person staggers under the load delivered to our door each day. There is much to celebrate, but there is also much to ponder, for many of the overriding messages are disturbing—we're dissolving! we're downsizing! we're restructuring! we're closing! we're joining forces with an art gallery! and so it goes.

Some of these decisions make a lot of sense, while others are difficult to accept. The Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation is moving from its Bloor Street location to smaller quarters on University Avenue, and in the move leaving both the conservation labs (museums and archaeology) behind. Once again the Culture, Sport and Recreation Division has been restructured with Michael Langford, Director of the new Heritage and Libraries Branch; Robert Montgomery Director of the new Equal Opportunity and Disability Access Branch, and Lyn Hamilton, Director of the new Arts and Cultural Industries Branch.

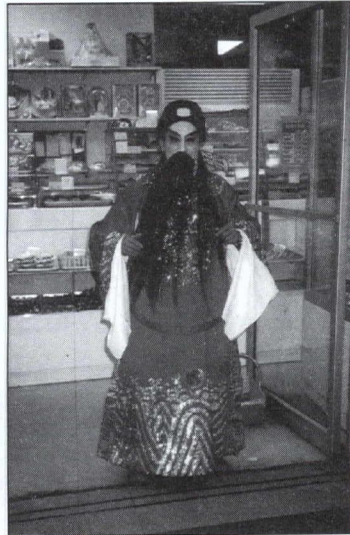
With museums and historical societies still struggling to survive the cuts to their support programmes in the last three years from the Ministry, new funding from the Ontario 2000 programme and enlarged funding

from the Trillium Foundation is suddenly available to the heritage community.

In some cases, it may be too late. The OHS has been working closely with several of our affiliated societies to ensure that they do not dissolve and that they do not close their museums, resource centres and archives. One example is the decision recently made by the Gurd and Area Historical Corporation to dissolve and close the Commanda General Store Museum. The OHS sponsored a meeting in Huntsville last year to explore options, and in January made a presentation to the Nipissing Council concerning its future alternatives. A feasibility study is being undertaken, and all the partners are hoping to save this outstanding project.

A little further afield, Brian Anthony, Executive Director of Heritage Canada, with headquarters in Ottawa, reports on changes to meet financial goals. Five positions in the Ottawa office were eliminated and the Cambridge, Ontario; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Halifax, Nova Scotia offices were closed. Members of Heritage Canada will also be aware that the Board of Directors has decided that their mandate reverts to focus on architecture, as it did many years ago.

On a more positive note, the OHS receives a steady stream of visits, calls and letters from individuals and communities concerned about their vanishing history. Out there where the real



Happy New Year to our members and friends of Chinese ancestry. The God of Prosperity was busy leading up to February 16 as he distributed lucky candy to everyone he could find. (Dorothy Duncan)

people are, learning about Ontario's past, researching our families and communities, restoring that structure, conserving that artifact, starting a new historical society, has captivated Ontarians.

Perhaps times of transition are good for us? Perhaps we take time to consider what is really valuable to us, our families, our communities? If that is true, take the time to make your thoughts known to your local newspaper editor, mayor or reeve, your MPP, MP, the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Canadian Heritage. In 1999 be sure that you communicate and participate in the preservation of Ontario's past.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors

Frank Bartoszek and Jeanne Hughes, Co-Chairs, Fundraising Committee

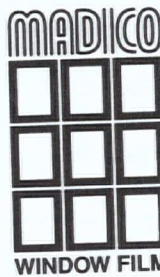
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Across the Province

Richard Gardiner, Chair, Local Societies Committee and Dorothy Duncan, OHS Executive Director

Congratulations to Maureen Hunt of Huntsville (a former OHS Board member) and to **Heritage Huntsville**, on the publication of *Huntsville: More Pictures From the Past*, a companion piece to *Huntsville: Pictures From the Past*.

Over 200 guests attended the launch of *P.L. Inventor of the Robertson Screw*, written by Ken Lamb, edited by Jim Dills and published by the **Milton Historical Society** in October at the Milton Fairgrounds. The Society has started fundraising for the restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop (pictured in the last issue of the *OHS Bulletin*.) If you can assist: Marsha Waldie (905) 878-7171 or Mandy Sedgwick (905) 878-4197.

Geography and History Co-ordinator for the North York Board of Education, Bill Alexander will speak on "Colonial Land Appraising in South Western Ontario 1788-1855," on March 10 at 8:00 P.M. at the **North York Historical Society's** meeting at **The Gibson House**.

The **Trent Port Historical Society**, with headquarters at 55 King Street in Trenton meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 P.M. For information about the Society, its publications, 1999 calendar, archives, museum and meetings: Marilyn Hopkins (613) 392-1287 or (613) 392-8418.

The **Esquesing Historical Society** has announced that on March 10, Bill McGrath will speak on "Esquesing's Village Constables" and on April 14 Francis Hulme will speak on "Tossing the Caber!" For locations and other details: (905) 877-9510.

The **Smith Falls Railway Museum** has published a Wish List including a variety of items from scrub brushes to hacksaw blades. If you can donate call Robert at (613) 283-5696.

The **Friends of Hutchison House** in Peterborough are plan-

ning a study trip to Bucks County and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in May. These annual study trips to a historic area are very popular and one of the perks of being a volunteer. To learn more about the Friends, the House and the trip call (705) 743-9710.

The 1997 edition of the **Grand Actions Registry** is hot off the press containing over 1,000 activities in the Grand River watershed. To obtain a copy contact Barbara Veale at (519) 621-2761, extension 274.

The **Manitoba Historical Society** is planning a Spring Field Trip, with Ruth Swan as tour guide, on June 5 to trace the Metis fur trade through the Pembina District, Pembina and Walhalla, North Dakota. For information (204) 947-0559.

A new research centre has been established as a major data base centre for both Acadian families originating from the Port Royal, Nova Scotia area prior to their expulsion and for Aboriginal lineages. For information: **The Acadian Research Centre**, 82 Germain Street, 3rd Floor, Saint John, New Brunswick E2L 2E7 (506) 657-7705.

Chief Carolyn King of the **New Credit First Nation** will speak at the March 3 meeting of the **Governor Simcoe Branch, United Empire Loyalists** on "The Story of the Mississaugas—Their Past to the Present." For information on this and future programmes (416) 767-8074.

The **Tweed and Area Heritage Centre** has an innovative fundraising project in progress as they sell building blocks for the Project 2000 expansion of the Centre. Contact (613) 478-3989 for details.

We were pleased to read in a recent issue of the **Peterborough Historical Society Bulletin** that the Board of Directors passed motions to "celebrate 150 years of the incorporation of Peterborough in the year 2000" and

"to plan a celebration for 2001 as the beginning of the new millennium." Much as we may want to party, the new millennium begins in 2001.

The **Canadian Canal Society** is hosting a social afternoon in the Burgoyne Room of the **St. Catharines Museum** at Lock 3 on Sunday, March 7 at 2:30 P.M. Members are also looking forward to the World Canals Conference to be held in Lille, France in June, with the possibility of an extended tour to Scandinavia. For information (905) 684-4882.

Glengarry, Ontario and Glen Garry, Scotland will soon be linked when the **Glen Garry Visitors Centre** pilot project opens in an 18th century stable byre next to the Invergarry Hotel in Glen Garry. Displays will link the glen in Scotland to the emigrations to Glengarry in Ontario. Contact the **Glen Garry Visitor Centre Association**, Greenfield, Invergarry, Invernesshire, PH35 4HR for information or to make a donation.

The **Millbrook Agricultural Fair** will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year and the **Fair Committee** is appealing for items of historical significance to be displayed during the Fair, June 11, 12 and 13. Contact Bob Hall (705) 932-2245 if you have items to loan.

Here is your opportunity to share your stories and anecdotes about severe or unusual weather conditions that occurred in Canada from 1750 to 1980! Send your contributions to: David Phillips, Senior Climatologist, Atmospheric Service, Environment Canada, 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, Ontario M3H 5T4 (416) 739-4180.

Would you like to learn more about **Communities in Bloom**, a non-profit organization committed to fostering pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement? Contact Pat Dubyk, Box 4219, Picton, Ontario K0K 2T0 (613) 476-1792.

The historic Custom House Cupboard that left the **Erchless Estate** in Oakville in 1966 has returned home. On your next visit, ask for the details or call (905) 338-4400 to learn more about the rich history behind this important piece of Oakville's history.

Anthropologist Andrew Kovacs will discuss the Harvey Graham Burial in Holland Landing at the March 11 meeting of the **East Gwillimbury Historical Society** at the Temperance Hall, Sharon, 7:30 P.M.

Fanshawe Pioneer Village and the **Upper Thames Conservation Authority** have launched the Loyalists' Lane project with the official dedication planned for June 19 and 20. To learn more about it, or to dedicate a tree to your ancestor, call (519) 457-7280.

Good news at last for the

home of **Stephen Leacock** on Old Brewery Bay in Orillia, with the announcement that the Canada Millennium Partnership Programme will contribute \$666,000 for repair and restoration of this national historic site and home of one of Canada's most famous scholars and authors.

Congratulations to OHS Board of Directors member **Dr. Carl Benn** on the launch of *The Iroquois in the War of 1812*.

Is it possible that you are a descendant of **Thomas Bowlby** or his four sons who settled in West New Jersey in the 18th century? A reunion of all Canadian and American descendants is planned for July 23-25. Contact Christina Downey (217) 854-5522 for details.

The **Eva Brook Donly Museum** and **Norfolk Historical Society** have announced a very full activity programme for the coming year including luncheons, tours, fairs, discovery days and more! Call (519) 426-1583 for details.

The heritage community has lost many tireless workers in the last few weeks. Louise Beck was a loyal and dedicated member of many organizations including the OHS, the former **John Graves Simcoe Association** and **Women's Canadian Historical Society**, the **Governor Simcoe Branch, U.E.L.**, and the **St. George Society**, among others. Louise will be sorely missed by all in the heritage community. Margaret MacKelvie dedicated 28 years as curator to **Lang Pioneer Village**, and was recognized across Ontario for her expertise and knowledge, receiving an honorary degree from Trent University and awards of recognition from several provincial organizations. Rolph Kenton, the Treasurer of the **East Durham**

Historical Society was also a supporter of the 4th Line Theatre and involved in many other organizations and institutions in the Northumberland area. Our sympathy goes out to the families of these, our colleagues.

It's maple syrup time again and many historical sites have announced festivals: **Spruce Lane Farm**, (905) 827-6911; **Crawford Lake Conservation Area** (905) 854-0234; **Bradley Museum** (905) 822-1569 and **Vineland Quarries Sugar Bush**, (905) 227-1013.

The new **Firearms Act** came into effect on December 1, 1998 with implications and responsibilities for owners, collectors and museums. For information, or for a copy of the Firearms Act call toll-free 1-800-731-4000.

This year marks the 175th anniversary of *The Colonial Advocate*, William Lyon Mackenzie's famous newspaper. Watch for commemorative projects and programmes from the **Mackenzie Heritage Printery** in Queenston and other historic sites with links to Toronto's first mayor, who became the leader of the 1837 Rebellion in Upper Canada.

As the Folk Artist-in-Residence programme at the **Joseph Schneider Haus** enters its tenth year, the **Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus** announce that close 'Friend', Nancy-Lou Patterson is the 1999 resident. An internationally published scholar, curator, poet, and author, her latest novel *The Tramp Room* (1999), is set in Joseph Schneider Haus.

The **Oshawa Historical Society** holds its second annual silent auction as part of its Annual Meeting March 15. In return for a donation, a business card size advertisement is available in their newsletter. Call (905) 436-7624.

Farewell to David McFall

The heritage community in Ontario was saddened to learn of the passing of David McFall on January 5. David will be remembered for his active support and participation in many historical organizations including the York Pioneer and Historical Society, where he had served as President and Treasurer, the Albion-Bolton Historical Society, of which he was a founding member, the Doane Family Association of America, the Canadian Friends Historical Association and the North Toronto Historical Society. For dedicated service to the OHS, he and his wife Jean were presented with the Janet Carnochan Award in 1984 and David received the Cruikshank Gold Medal in 1991. David also received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. In May of 1998 the Albion-Bolton Historical Society held an evening of tributes for David, when all the organizations and institutions that he had assisted and supported had the pleasure of thanking him and saluting his accomplishments.

A service of remembrance and celebration was held at Lawrence Park Community Church on Saturday, January 9 when many of David's friends said farewell and expressed their sympathy to his wife Jean and to their children and grandchildren.

HERITAGE RESOURCES CONSULTANT

- ♦ **Historical Research**
(See "Starting From Scratch" and "Upper Canada in the Making" in *Horizon Canada*, Vol. 2, # 22 and 23.)
- ♦ **Family History**
(See *OGS Seminar '85*, pp. 26-32.)
- ♦ **Corporate and Advertising History**
(See *DCB*, Vol. XIII, Cowan and McCormick biographies.)
- ♦ **Heritage Product Marketing Research**
(See "Marketing Food" in *Consuming Passions*, OHS, 1990.)
- ♦ **Built Environment and Cultural Landscape Analysis**

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Upcoming Events

February 1–March 12: Experience the haunting emotion of the Titanic through a special photographic exhibit at the Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum and Arts Centre. See advertisements, posters, photographs of passengers and festivities before the voyage, and from inside the wreckage showing personal belongings on the ocean floor. Consider how East York and Toronto responded to the tragedy by reading local coverage of the disaster. Models are also included in the exhibit. Todmorden Mills is located on Pottery Road in East York. Call (416) 396-2819.

February–March 21: What a Crock! The Chatham–Kent Museum hosts an exhibition which examines the background of pottery in Southwestern Ontario. In the last half of the 19th century, pottery vessels such as crocks and jugs were used extensively for the storage of foodstuffs, wines, etc. Many of the crocks were made in the large potteries in Brantford and Paris, as well as in the smaller potteries scattered throughout the region. They were then wholesaled to merchants in small communities like Chatham, Dresden and Thamesville, and sold to customers. The Museum is located at 75 William Street North in Chatham and is open afternoons daily. Call (519) 354-8338.

February–April 20: Heritage House Museum in Smiths Falls presents **Warmth & Light**, an exhibit depicting the ‘comfort’ of quilts and glowing lighting devices. This is contrasted against chilling photographs of the destruction (and the stark beauty) of “Ice Storm 98.” The quilts are from the museum’s own collection, many with patterns from the 1840s to 1890s. The lighting, on loan from a private collection features primitive iron grease lamps, tin ‘Betty’ lamps, unusual glass lamps and brass candlesticks. The Museum is on Old Slys Road, just off Hwy 43 beside the Rideau Canal. Call (613) 283-8560.

February–May 9: Celebrate the Celtic spirit at the Guelph Civic Museum during **A Celtic Renaissance: Contemporary Art in Ontario and Brittany**. Local artists are highlighted and include an illuminator, kilt maker, tattoo artist, enamel jewellery designer and a sculpture group. The Museum is located at 6 Dublin Street South in Guelph. Call (519) 836-1221 for scheduling details.

February 20–June 30: Plan to ‘hang out’ at The Museum for Textiles for **Gather Beneath the Banner: Political and Religious Banners of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union**, an exhibition which examines the role and activities of one of the most successful women’s organizations in Canada’s history. The 21

embroidered and painted textile banners on display were used to bolster the morale of its members and express its doctrines to outsiders in processions and parades. The Museum for Textiles is located at 55 Centre Avenue in Toronto. Contact (416) 599-5515 for information.

March 4–April 1: The Thursday noon hour lecture series hosted by Heritage Toronto examines **Brick by Brick: Toronto’s Early Builders**. Eden Smith, Edmund Burke, E.J. Lennox, John M. Lyle, and William Thomas are each highlighted. All lectures take place in the Bankers Hall at 205 Yonge Street in Toronto. To register for this or to inquire about the many programmes offered by Heritage Toronto, contact (416) 392-6827.

March 6: Do you have a personal or professional interest in the decorative arts or incorporating elements of historical interiors in your home or business? Casa Loma and Spadina, two outstanding showcases exemplifying affluent styles from the mid-Victorian era through to the Art Deco period of the 1930s in Toronto are hosts for **Room with a View: Make Your Home a Castle!** Topics covered at this one day programme include: researching your home, sourcing materials, antique identification, traditional decorative techniques and period interior design. For costs and registration forms, contact Spadina (416) 392-6910.

March 10–14: Winter-weary gardeners can plan on attending **A Gardener’s Getaway, Canada Blooms 1999**, the premiere indoor flower and garden show. Six acres of gardens will bloom at the the Metro Toronto Convention Centre South Building. An extensive educational series with lectures and demonstrations will show new horticultural techniques in practical and entertaining settings. For details (416) 447-8655 or 1-800-730-1020.

March 12–19: March Break programmes at Montgomery’s Inn in Etobicoke begins on the evening of March 12 with a childrens concert, **Licorice Sticks, and Other Musical Delights, Part II** which will introduce the mysteries and many moods of the ‘Licorice Stick Family’ of instruments. On **March 13** toe-tapping Irish music for the whole family is highlighted in the St. Patrick’s concert, **Steeped in Tradition**. Would-be time travelling children can take part in **Old-Fashioned Fun** from **March 15–19** and try their hand at a variety of crafts, games and activities. On **March 17** a special menu is served in honour of St. Patrick’s Day, and Thomas Montgomery, the Irish-born original owner of the Inn. Montgomery’s Inn is located at 4709 Dundas Street West

in Etobicoke. Contact (416) 394-8113 for registration and details about these and other programmes this spring.

March 15–19: Toronto’s First Post Office hosts two March Break programmes for children. **Paper Arts of the Past** teaches children about the art of quilling, pin-pricking and combining stencil designs and potato prints to create distinctive wrapping paper, and **Novice Stamp Collecting—An Introduction to Philately**. Call Toronto’s First Post Office to register, but book early, space is limited (416) 865-1833.

March 16–19: The March Break Programme at The Gibson House offers the opportunity to recreate life in a rural household, with baking, candle making, 19th century games and much more. The Gibson House is located at 5172 Yonge Street in North York. Call (416) 395-7432 for programme details.

March 28–May 9: The Toronto Field Naturalists and the Ontario Society for Industrial Archaeology invite you to join in several heritage walks. On **March 28**, meet at the southwest corner of Keele Street and St. Clair Avenue West at 2:00 P.M. for a 3 hour walk exploring the **Toronto Belt Line Railway, Western Loop** to Queen Street West and Windermere Avenue. On **April 10** meet at the northwest corner of King Street East and Sumach Street at 1:00 P.M. for a 3 hour walk to **Fisherman’s Island**, Toronto’s late 19th century lost fishing village. On **April 25** meet at the southeast corner of Dufferin Street and King Street West at 2:00 P.M. for a 3 hour walk visiting the **Lost Ponds of Parkdale**, 5 ponds and wetlands in the Parkdale–Liberty vicinity. Finally, on **May 9** meet at the southwest corner of Montgomery Avenue and Yonge Street at 2:00 P.M. (3 blocks north of Eglinton) for a 3 hour walk searching for **Aqueducts, Reservoirs and Springs**. For information call Toronto Field Naturalists at (416) 968-6255.

April 16–18: The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc., (ACO) holds the **1999 Conference** in London which explores opportunities and challenges associated with the preservation and reuse of industrial structures in Ontario. While many industrial structures can be large and expensive to maintain, surprisingly to most, many are often attractive buildings, easily adapted to new uses. Sessions will include: “Issues in Conservation and Preservation,” “Hamilton Steam Museum and its Engines,” “Don Valley Brickworks Restoration,” “Gooderham & Worts Redevelopment,” “Made in Hamilton Heritage Trail,” “Railway Bridge on the Tiger Dunlop Nature Her-

The Bush-Ladies

Helen Yielding

The Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society, in conjunction with the Tottenham Concert Goers, is excited to present this informative play.

Using text from the diaries and journals of four English gentlewomen who came as immigrants to the wilds of Upper Canada in the early 1800s, Molly Thom, director, has created a play which will warm your heart, enlighten your understanding of and involve you in our own history.

Susanna Moodie, Catherine Parr Trail, Anne Langton and Anna Brownell Jameson were highly educated, gently-reared women skilled in the arts of needlework, sketching, the management of servants and households, and the writing of fine prose—skills that ill-prepared them for survival against cold, loneliness, black flies, log shanties and all the deprivations of life in the Canadian bush. But survive they did, and their ‘take’ on pioneer life makes for memorable theatre.

The performance will be held on Sunday, April 25 at 2:00 P.M. at St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, 2 Nolan Road in Tottenham. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students. Contact Rose Gibson (905) 936-2595.

itage Trail” and “Conservation of Marine Artifacts.” For information, contact: ACO London Conference, 1017 Western Road, London, Ontario N6G 1G5 or call evenings (519) 672-2496.

May 28–30: Kingston City Hall hosts the 1999 Community Heritage Ontario Conference, **Make Heritage Pay** from May 28 to 30 with themes on issues surrounding preservation as economic development. The trend in these days of government fiscal restraint has been to strip funding from programmes that do ‘pay their own way.’ Some of the hardest hit by government cutbacks have been cultural support programmes and projects. For Local Architectural Conservation Committees (LACACs), the loss of the Designated Property Grant Programme has been particularly devastating leaving groups vulnerable and unprepared to defend their needs for financial support. With no reprieve on the horizon, the time has come to embrace a new paradigm for protection that advocates heritage preservation as a development issue; in other words, “Make Heritage Pay.” For conference details contact Mary

Stephens, 736 Leroy Avenue, London, Ontario N5Y 4G8 (519) 439-3373.

June 6–11: The Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society once again offers its intensive hands-on adult **Summer Camp**. It is primarily designed for out-of-town researchers who have roots in Ontario, and would like to take advantage of the extensive research archives and libraries in Toronto. Why not arrange your week of research in a logical progression, making the best use of your time and the faculty’s resources, and have fun meeting others doing the same thing. Spend less time finding the archives and more time finding the information. Contact (416) 463-9103 or fax (416) 463-6755.

June 13–19: Elderhostel provides an opportunity to learn about **Historic Railways and Waterways in Central Canada and Beyond** and take an intimate look at old-order railroading, electric railways, settlement development, and the Grand River from land and water. Register through Elderhostel National Office (613) 530-2222, by April 1.

Upcoming OHS Events

DATE	PROGRAMME	LOCATION
March 9	<i>Money Matters!</i>	Orillia
March 17	St. Patrick’s Supper	Willowdale
April 17	<i>Money Matters!</i>	Elliot Lake
May 8	OHS Annual Business Meeting	Willowdale
July 1	Canada Day Street Sale	Willowdale

For information on these events and others in the planning stages, please contact the OHS, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2, (416) 226-9011 or fax 226-2740.

Lost Augustine Cemetery found

Ken Turner



Ken Turner holding a piece of William and Martha Cascaden's tombstone, dated April 1876, at the construction site where the Augustine Cemetery is located. (Dorothy Duncan)

In the March 1998 issue of the OHS Bulletin, we reported on the investigative work of Ken Turner. Here we follow up with what has resulted in a 'good news' story.

On the morning of December 4, 1998 after over 15 years of searching, the lost historic Augustine family pioneer cemetery was located. The cemetery was found in a cornfield on the outskirts of Kingsville in an area slated for subdivision development. Neal Ferris, an archaeologist with the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation conducted the investigation which saw the co-operation of the land developer and his heavy machinery with the historical research I was able to uncover.

The Augustine Cemetery is located on Lot 1, Conc. 1, Gosfield South Township (now the Town of Kingsville). Abel Augustine purchased 300 acres from present day Beech Street in Kingsville to the 3rd concession in 1805; the western and eastern boundaries of the property being Division Road and the Old Mill Creek.

The Augustines were early pioneers of Gosfield Township. Two of the daughters married two Cascadden brothers, another pioneering family of the area. These two families greatly contributed to the advancement of agriculture, building, religious, and social development in early south Essex County.

Abel's son Alexander fought in the War of 1812 and was a veteran of the battle of Fort Detroit and Fort Meigs. Alexander Cascadden and his brother David saw action in the Essex Militia during the Rebellion of 1837. Alexander captured three of the rebels, two of whom were hanged and one banished. Abel's mother-in-law Sophia Stewart also lived on the Augustine farm and died in 1838 at 107 years of age.

As members of the Augustine, Cascadden and Stewart families died during the 19th century, they were laid to rest in a small cemetery on the Augustine farm. The cemetery was originally located at the corner of two laneways which intersected the property. It was fenced and the

graves were lovingly adorned with headstones to commemorate the departed. As time passed the laneways disappeared into the surrounding farmland and the farm was sold out of the family in 1919. The headstones eventually toppled over, the little fence fell and by the late 1970s due to neglect and disrespect, the cemetery disappeared into the surrounding farmland.

Due to persistent efforts by descendant Doug Townsend an attempt to locate the lost cemetery was made in 1988, but unfortunately, the archaeological investigation was done in the wrong spot. The landowner claimed that there never was a cemetery on his property, no eye-witnesses were consulted, no research was done to select the site and, as fate would have it, Doug was unable to attend the event. Although there was a bylaw in effect to maintain the cemetery, the Cemeteries Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations (MCCR) de-registered the cemetery because it was not located.

In 1994 while I was doing genealogical research I met my relative Doug Townsend. Upon learning of the situation, I resolved to convince the Cemeteries Branch to re-open the file on the Augustine Cemetery.

Frustration seemed endless. It was apparent the landowner would not co-operate. The Cemeteries Branch was not responsive to reinvestigating the site one more time. The Township maintained that it would support whatever decision the province made. By the mid 1990s the property had been sold to a local land developer and was to be converted into a subdivision. Despite having substantial findings suggesting the location of the cemetery, it appeared I would get nowhere with the Township and the Cemeteries Branch.

Finally, after speaking with my MPP and the Ontario Ombudsman, I turned to the press. *Windsor Star* reporter Jaqueline Smrke wrote an article about the preservation of old historic cemeteries and ran a full story in October of 1997 about the Augustine Cemetery.

The **York Mills Baptist Cemetery** is listed among 25 properties recently recognized in Toronto's North District. This inventory identifies properties of historical or architectural significance to the community. The burial ground was established in 1832 and was closed to further burials in 1945.

Memorial Gardens which administers cemeteries in North York, Scarborough, Etobicoke, Oakville and Brampton has asked cemetery plot purchasers with surnames that begin with N to Z to contact their offices.

The descendants of those buried in **Tranquility Cemetery** in Brantford have asked the Ombudsman of Ontario to review the files relating to this cemetery in order to establish the legality of the severance of a part of the cemetery.

The **Committee for the Historical Preservation of Southgate Cemetery** in Middlesex Centre (London) was formed a number of years ago and has worked to maintain the grounds. The cemetery was established in 1833 and is now closed to further burials. Concern has been raised over the deterioration of many of the older stones so the committee is seeking funds to place plaques on the tombstones. Donations may be sent to Max O'Neil, The Committee for the Historical Preservation of Southgate Cemetery, 13566 Thirteen Mile Road, RR #4, Denfield, Ontario N0M 1P0. A gathering of descendants and those interested in preserving a part of this local heritage takes place Sunday June 27, 1999. For details contact Stuart O'Neil at the above address or at (519) 666-0665.

Almost immediately the fight to save the Augustine Cemetery took a positive turn. The Cemeteries Branch re-opened the case and the new land developer indicated he would co-operate if a cemetery was found.

The Registrar for Cemeteries, MCCR, requested that Neal Ferris, once again assist. In November 1997, Neal and several eyewitnesses walked the property to select the site for an archaeological investigation.

In the meantime, I continued to re-confirm the location of the site by finding more eyewitnesses, doing more research, using aerial photography, and dowsing, a technique I had read about recently.

On December 4, 1998 with mild temperatures and the full co-operation of the land developer, the search for the Augustine Cemetery began. Shortly after the developer's back hoe began to pull back the sandy soil the first historic gravesite was found. In all, 9 graves were confirmed while determining the boundaries of the cemetery, and another 26

At **Fort Temiskaming** on the Quebec-Ontario border the remains of three bodies were discovered during excavation work being conducted by Parks Canada. A small group of elders from four local bands held an all night vigil and there was a quiet reburial. The bodies are believed to date back to the early 1700s about 100 years before the trading post was established.

The **Sudbury District Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society** has requested that anyone knowing of an unmarked family cemetery, report its existence to them. As these are considered cemeteries under the Ontario Cemeteries Act these should also be reported to the Cemeteries Regulation Section of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. And, the information should be reported to the municipality so that the cemetery can be recorded on the official plan, and hopefully be recognized and preserved.

Trustees of **Richview Cemetery** located at the interchange of Highways 401, 427 and Eglinton Avenue in Etobicoke have undertaken a restoration project. Surveys have been completed and work is to begin in the spring. Land for the cemetery was purchased in 1839 and burials occur occasionally. Donations, which are income tax deductible, should be marked Richview Cemetery Restoration Project and sent to the Etobicoke Heritage Foundation, Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall, Etobicoke, Ontario M9C 2Y2.

Corleen Taylor of Beamsville has told us her concerns regarding three small cemeteries within two miles of the banks of

12 Mile Creek. 12 Mile Creek runs through present day St. Catharines. One is the burial ground of the **May** family, from which Mrs. Taylor descends. The other two are the **Tenbroeck** and the **"Poor House"** cemeteries. The **"Poor House"** cemetery was so-called because of the terror the inmates felt that their dead bodies would be used for experimentation. In order to allay their fears, a member of the Lincoln County Council claimed the bodies so that this could not happen, and they were buried right on the grounds. This small area has no markers or identification and is now threatened by a car lot and garage.

The **Corporation of St. James Cathedral** in downtown Toronto has retained an archaeological firm to conduct archaeological assessments of the lands proposed for redevelopment around the cathedral. In 1985 a redevelopment project resulted in the discovery of unmarked graves. St. James is being prudent in considering archaeological issues prior to any redevelopment.

Jane Cooper-Wilson, The 39th Tennessee Light Field Artillery Civil War Re-enactment Group, and 3rd Collingwood Venturers were among a group who gathered last summer to restore **Bethel Union Cemetery** near New Lowell. The interracial cemetery was established in 1855 but had been the burial ground for local black pioneers during the 1830s. The cemetery had been vandalized and those who volunteered to restore the cemetery gave praise and thanks to local businesses who made donations of material and expertise to complete this project.

to 30 were estimated to lie within the surveyed area.

Fifteen years of searching had come to an end. The land developer indicated that he would donate the cemetery site to a green area within the subdivision plan. Those concerned were

hopeful some of the monuments could be located in a nearby creek and returned to the cemetery grounds with a new historic monument. Part of Ontario's history which had almost been lost forever was finally revived.

We're still waiting!

As we go to press, The Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Genealogical Society have still not received the decision of the Tribunal that heard the appeal for the closing and the moving of the Clendennen Cemetery in Markham.

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Museum News

Brian Wood, Editor

Dear Minister

Tuesday, January 19, 1999
Honourable Isabel Bassett
Minister of Citizenship, Culture
and Recreation

Dear Minister:

I am writing to express concerns over the elimination of conservation lab services at your Ministry.

While I wrote you on this matter last year expressing my disappointment over a loss of access to these lab services on behalf of many Ontario museums and heritage organizations, I now understand that these services will be lost entirely when your Ministry relocates later this year. Indeed, I have been advised that the floor plans for your new Ministry offices do not even include any provision for a laboratory

space.

Minister, I find your government's devaluing of the importance of these services to the broader heritage community most unsettling. Furthermore, I find it shocking that you have not undertaken any real consultation with Ontario's heritage community to determine how the loss of this service will impact local heritage organizations.

I believe that there is a government role in ensuring that Ontario's heritage and museum community continue to have access to the kinds of services formerly offered through your Ministry's conservation laboratory. The fact is, Minister, you are, in essence, quietly phasing out an important service without any regard for the importance of that

service to the community and the void that will be left.

Minister, I simply ask you to consult with Ontario's heritage community before proceeding with this plan.

Sincerely,
Michael Gravelle, MPP
Liberal Culture and Heritage Critic

This letter was sent to many members of the heritage community in January. We reprint it here for the benefit of those who did not receive it, and may want to write a letter about this important issue. Direct responses to the Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, 6th Floor, 77 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5A 2R9 and send a copy to your local MPP and the OHS.



Fish decoys on display at the Windsor Wood Carving Museum. (Windsor Wood Carving Museum)

Carvers create a niche at the Windsor Wood Carving Museum

Laura Couvrette

Tools of survival turned folk art are the latest offerings on display at The Windsor Wood Carving Museum (WWCM). "Feathers and Fins" showcases over 80 waterfowl and fish decoys, highlighting local carvers.

The evolution of the decoy began with models made of mud and sticks created by the First Nations in order to lure migrating waterfowl. Later, it incorporated decorative as well as functional features.

Julie Lawrence, Manager, WWCM explains, "It's a facet we hadn't explored before. Decoys do play an important role in our area because of the history of hunting. It's important to represent them."

The collection includes some of the work of the late Joseph Momney of Tilbury, a local artist, who began his carving career in 1915, at 25 years of age. An avid duck hunter, Momney turned out about 500 pieces a

year for the next 50 years, and in the process, secured a place in Canada's carving history.

Sixty miniature waterfowl decoys by carvers from all over North America were lent to the museum by collector Don Girard of Dearborn, Michigan. There are 10 life-size decoys on loan from a local antique dealer and 10 fish decoys by renowned carver, Don Preston of Sharon, Ontario.

A third generation carver, Preston's colorful and abstract designs are found in private collections all over the world, including the North Pole. "The carvings by Don Preston add so much to Canadian and American folklore. His use of vivid, kinetic primary colours create an instant and powerful appeal," Lawrence reports of the sculptures.

For information about the museum and its programmes call (519) 977-0823. The exhibition runs until April 1999.

History rewards Backus with national designation

Michael-Allan Marion, *The Expositor*, Brantford

After surviving the War of 1812 and grinding grain for the same family owner for 155 years, Port Rowan's Backus Mill has been designated a National Historic Site.

The mill, originally called the Backhouse Mill, received the designation because it is one of Canada's oldest and best preserved examples of the small-scale, water-powered establishments found in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada cited the wooden building for its two centuries of continued use and the fact that it is "furnished with a collection of still operable equipment closely associated with the most important technological changes in 19th century milling history."

The mill was opened by homesteader John Backhouse in 1798 on Dedrich Creek, a tributary of Big Creek.

Janice Robertson, spokes-

man for the Long Point Region Conservation Authority which owns the site, said in an interview last year that whenever staff are asked the question of how and why the Backhouse name was changed in spelling to Backus, the standard answer is as mundane as one could get. They say the patriarch came to realize that running a mill that sells flour can be difficult if its name is reminiscent of an outhouse.

Robertson said the story that the children's mother prevailed in asking for the change because the kids were getting teased too much was "probably true." Nonetheless, the original name still appears on some signage.

The War of 1812 gave the mill its first test of survival. While every other mill in the area was destroyed, the Backhouse facility was spared. Stories abound to explain the miracle—all of them unverified and more than a little suspect, said Robertson.

One version has it that the

family, in a crafty move, set hay mounds ablaze around the mill to dupe the enemy into believing it had already been torched. Still another suggests the troops didn't want to go any further inland. And then there is the possibility that they just couldn't find it.

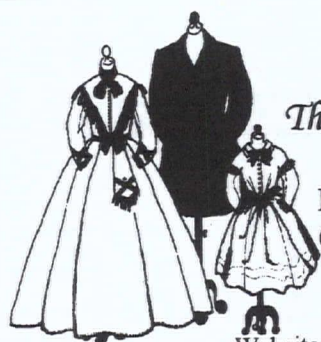
The mill was run by descendants of the same family until 1955 when it was sold to the Big Creek Conservation Authority, which would later merge with the Otter Creek Conservation Authority to become the Long Point Authority.

From that moment, it was developed both as a focal point of history and for its Carolinian woodlands. Today, its grindstones go into operation for special events only, and various naturalist groups help take care of the Backus Woods, which contain the largest living Carolinian space along the Lake Erie north shore.

Every September, re-enactors gather at the site for a weekend from all over North America to stage two days of simulated battle scenes from the War of 1812. Tradition has it that the Americans win on Saturday and the British prevail on Sunday.

And, according to the agreed upon script, the mill has always emerged unscathed.

Submissions for *Museum News* should be sent to
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Fun fundraiser

Janice Sutton, Napanee

The skirl of bagpipes, a kilted dancer's heels on an oak floor, the gurgle of liquid being poured into heavy glasses. What is this all about? The Macpherson House in Napanee successfully held its ninth annual Single Malt Whisky Tasting fundraiser recently.

The brain-child of Harold Good, a retired Queen's University professor and lover of fine whiskies, this event attracts a growing number of aficionados of single malts, those individually-flavoured whiskies produced by one distillery, usually, but not always, in Scotland.

"Where else can I have a taste of six different whiskies plus that wonderful food for \$50?" asks a Torontonion who hies himself off to Napanee for this event. A crib sheet outlines the characteristics of each whisky

so tasters can compare their opinions. Good food is also the order of the day with Scotch eggs, smoked salmon, oatcakes and cheese all tempting the palate.

The Macpherson House, Napanee's heritage home, was built by Allan Macpherson in the 1830s. He was a Scotsman, and spent many happy hours with a family relative, Sir John A. Macdonald, no doubt imbibing the occasional dram of his homeland's finest product.

With the growing popularity of single malt whiskies and the direct historical connection, this fundraiser can offer benefits for all. The guests relish the food, the drink, and the company while the Macpherson House coffers enjoy a topping up! For information about the Macpherson House and the Whisky Tasting, call (613) 354-5982.

From the Bookshelf

Pat and Chris Raible, Editors

Green Thumbs

Early Canadian Gardening: An 1827 Nursery Catalogue. By Eileen Woodhead. McGill-Queen's University Press. 306 pages. Illustrations. \$45.00 hardbound.

This is truly a "ground-breaking" book, detailing horticultural practices in early Upper Canada and showing which garden plants were available for food, medicines, dyestuffs, and ornamental purposes. Reproduced in full is the 1827 "Catalogue of Fruit & Ornamental Trees, Flowering Shrubs, Garden Seeds and Green House Plants, Bulbous Roots & Flower Seeds Cultivated and for Sale at the Toronto Nursery, Dundas Street, near York," the whole printed by none other than "William Lyon Mackenzie, Printer to the House of Assembly." Eileen Woodhead follows this with a full description and brief history of each plant. She has also found and grown a number of the plants listed, and for these she includes elegant line drawings. A lovely book!



The Camera's Eye

Ontario Album. By Terry Boyle and Ron Brown. Polar Bear Press. 144 pages. Illustrations. \$27.95 softbound.

We are treated here to a charming treasury of vintage photographs and postcards showing how our forebears lived, worked, shopped, and played. Culled from the private files of authors Terry Boyle and Ron Brown, as well as from national and provincial archives, these photos and accompanying captions—of circus parades, school picnics, country fairs, spring floods, steamships and streetcars, grand hotels and summer cottages—provide a graphic glimpse of our province's history, 1850–1950. Polar Bear Press is to be commended for its ongoing commitment to publishing attractive and lively books on Ontario's history.

Aboriginal History

Earth, Water, Air and Fire: Studies in Canadian Ethnohistory. Edited by David T. McNab for

Nin.Da.Waab.Jig. Wilfrid Laurier University Press. 342 pages. \$29.95 softbound.

In 1994 a conference was held at the Walpole Island Heritage Centre Nin.Da.Waab.Jig. as a cross-cultural, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal idea exchange. One consequence is this published collection of papers which, although essentially academic, deserves wider reading. Many Ontario "myths" about taming the wilds and settling the land clearly need rethinking, as several of these articles make clear.

War on the Lake

Lords of the Lake: The Naval War on Lake Ontario, 1812–1814. By Robert Malcomson. Robin Brass Studio. 411 pages. Illustrations. \$34.95 hardbound.

This marvellously researched and effectively narrated account of the War of 1812 on Lake Ontario will be welcomed not only by military history buffs, but also by all who would better understand the consequences of that war. For two years opposing commodores Sir James Yeo and Isaac Chauncy attempted to do battle, but raids and skirmishes were no substitute for the decisive confrontation which never happened. Here is history both detailed and dramatic, accompanied by archival photos and artistic recreations.

Way Leads on to Way

Gypsies, Preachers and Big White Bears: One Hundred Years on Country Roads. By Claudia Smith. General Store Publishing House. 132 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.

Local historian Claudia Smith combed books, diaries, scrapbooks and newspapers (mostly from Lanark County), extracted anecdotes and incidents relating to country roads and the folk who travelled them, and compiled a volume full of facts (and a few fancies) about rural living in the last century. The chapter on the fifty years (1880s to 1930s) of gypsies is especially interesting.

A Place to Visit and to Live

Almaguin: A Highland History. By Astrid Taim. Natural Heritage/Natural History. 158 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.

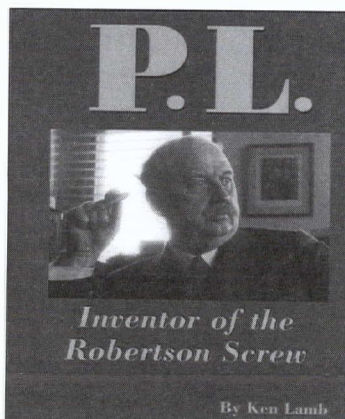
The name of the area, "Almaguin," was made up 40 years ago to attract tourists, but the history of this area north of

Huntsville is very real. It is told as a series of stories drawn from diaries, newspaper accounts and the memories of those who lived them. Archival photographs help make these tales of a past time a present, pleasant read.

Most Modern History

Ontario Since 1985. By Randall White. eastendbooks. 320 pages. Illustrations. softbound.

To some of us, this book might be too current to be labeled history, but we have experienced extraordinary political change in the last decade or so. Bill Davis and the "Big Blue Machine" do seem a long time ago. There have been major population and economic changes as well. Randall White, author of what has become the standard history of the province, *Ontario 1610–1985*, is well qualified to bring us up to date.



A New Twist

P.L. Inventor of the Robertson Screw. By Ken Lamb. Milton Historical Society. 186 pages. Illustrations. \$25.00 softbound.

Perhaps the single most influential Canadian invention was a square-holed screw. It was the product of the creative mind of Peter Lymburner Robertson. Born in Haldimand County, after inventing his screw he was lured to Milton (by a \$10,000 grant from the town) and there established his major manufacturing enterprise. Here is the story of the inventor and the industry he founded in Milton, a tale that has never been told in detail before.

Layers of London

Downtown London: Layers of Time. Edited by Michael Baker. London Regional Art & Historical Museums and London Regional Advisory Committee on Heritage. 164 pages. Illustrations. \$14.50 softbound.

Seven writers and historians combined their talents to produce this study of the more than 100 buildings—and the people who used them—in the central part of London. The stories and snippets are fascinating, the archival photographs (over 500) are wonderful, and the produced volume is splendidly designed. Here are banks and businesses, public buildings and private enterprises, places of communication and of recreation. A book to be admired by anyone with an eye for architectural or commercial history,

even those who do not know this flourishing Ontario city.

Canadian Master

A Grand Eye for Glory: A Life of Franz Johnston. By Roger Burford Mason. Dundurn Press. 100 pages. Illustrations. \$29.99.

This fine biography of Frank (Franz) Johnston celebrates the life and art of one of the original—but least known—members of the Group of Seven. Artistically prolific and financially successful, Johnston left the Group because he felt they "were falling into that very blunder of conventionalism against which their first work was a protest." Mason recognizes Johnston's contribution to and influence on Canadian art and culture. Included are sixteen full-colour—and quite stunning—reproductions of Johnston paintings.

Sketched with Pen & Ink

Our Yesterdays Seen Today: A pictorial history of a bygone era done in pen and ink by Toronto illustrator Morton S. Harris. Morton S. Harris Publications. 60 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

History Noted

Since our last issue of *From the Bookshelf*, we have received these flyers and notices describing publications of interest:

Mary Ann Shadd Cary: the Black Press and Protest in the Nineteenth Century. By Jane Rhodes. Indiana University Press. 320 pages. Illustrations. US \$ 39.95. A thoughtful and thorough study of the woman who championed black emigration to Canada in the 1850s.

Time Between: Akuniningini. By Lois Darroch. Ampersand Press. 300 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound. A true-to-life tale of a woman from Ontario's Huron County who went to the Canadian North to pro-

Every few years an artist helps to make Toronto's past come alive through paintings or drawings based on archival photographs. These images span the period from 1878 to 1931—fires, construction projects, scenes of daily life, heritage buildings are all here. Especially poignant are the many faces of common folk.

Told with Poetry & Paint

Superior Illusions. By Richard Pope. Illustrations by Neil Broadfoot. Natural Heritage/Natural History. 128 pages. \$29.95 softbound.

Throughout the 18th century, voyageurs regularly travelled the full width of what is now Ontario, from Lachine to Thunder Bay. Cast in free verse, sprinkled with quotations from those who lived it, here is a narrative of one such crossing. Its central character is fictional, but the author writes the truth. He knows his history (Ramsay Cook, no less, confirms it) and he knows his geography (he has paddled most of it.) The accompanying paintings and drawings are very fine indeed. A beautiful book about a very rugged journey.

mote a native textile industry.

Ancaster's Heritage, Volume II. Edited by Paul Grimwood. Ancaster Township Historical Society. \$25.00. A supplement to the Ancaster history first published in 1970 which includes interesting family connections and events in the township's two centuries.

Torbolton Township: its Earliest History. By Doris Grierson Hope. Torbolton Historical Society. \$35.00. From logging to farming, the first settlers, the first farms, the first houses, the first roads, the first school, politics, steamboats, religious conflict, and the Gabie Revival.

Directory of Publishers

Ampersand Press, distributed by Hushion House Publishing, 36 Northline Road, Toronto, Ontario M4B 2E2.

Ancaster Township Historical Society, Box 81123, Ancaster, Ontario L9G 4X1.

Dundurn Press Ltd., 8 Market Street, Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario M5E 1M6.

eastendbooks, 45 Fernwood Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4E 3E9.

General Store Publishing House, 1 Main Street, Burnstown, Ontario K0J 1G0.

Indiana University Press, 610 North Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47404-3797, U.S.A.

London Regional Art & Historical Museums, 421 Ridout Street North, London, Ontario N6A 5H4.

McGill-Queen's University Press, 3430 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1X9.

Morton S. Harris Publications, Downsview P.O., 1027 Finch Avenue, West, Unit 5, Box 30034, Downsview, Ontario M3J 3L6.

Milton Historical Society, Box 85,

Milton, Ontario L9T 2Y3.

Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc., Box 95, Station 0, Toronto, Ontario M4A 2M8.

Polar Bear Press, 35 Prince Andrew Place, Toronto, Ontario M3C 2H2.

Robin Brass Studio, 10 Blantyre Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1N 2R4.

Torbolton Township Historical Society, RR # 1, Dunrobin, Ontario K0A 1T0

Wilfrid Laurier University Press, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3CS.

Please Note

More extensive reviews of a number of books relating to the history of our province are published in *Ontario History*, the journal of the OHS. Prices of books referred to on this page may not include GST or postage charges. All prices are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

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The OHS honoured its major donors to the restoration of the John McKenzie property by presenting each of them with a hard hat bearing the OHS crest. From the left: Robert Leverty, Ed Ralph, Barbara and Charles Truax, Doris Tucker representing the Women's Canadian Historical Society, Daniel O'Brien, Jean Burnet, Dorothy Duncan, and Barbara Seargeant. Absent were Jean Agnew, Kirk Howard of Dundurn Press, Nona Macdonald Heaslip representing the John Graves Simcoe Association, Ruth Keene and Patrick Doyle of Erie Stone Masonry. (James Clemens)

Money Matters!

January 1, 1999 dawned clear and cold as members of the heritage community made their way to the Ontario Science Centre in response to an invitation from the Honourable Isabel Bassett, Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. In the midst of a very gala party Minister Bassett announced a new funding programme called "Ontario 2000—Shaping the Future Together."

This programme has many components and many categories for projects and programmes reflecting the millennium. Final deadline for submissions is December 31, 1999 and for information call Toronto area (416) 314-2020; toll free elsewhere in Ontario 1-877-464-0444.

The Canada Millennium Partnership Programme with "Sharing the Memory, Shaping the Dream" themes was announced last June and already the heritage community is benefitting from it (see Across the Province). For information on this programme call toll free 1-

888-774-9999.

Late last year the OHS designed a new workshop called *Money Matters!* which can be presented alone, or in conjunction with another programme. We have now presented it in Kirkland Lake, Fort Frances, Toronto, Peterborough, the Town of Essex, and it is scheduled for Orillia on March 9 and Elliot Lake on April 17.

The workshop's focus is finding funding, who is eligible to apply for it, fundraising tips, attracting and honouring donors and an idea exchange.

The heritage community in Ontario has endured both devastating cuts and vanishing programmes. This workshop details the new sources of funding that are suddenly being announced and puts you in contact with key people and programmes.

To host a workshop, or learn more about one in your area contact Robert Leverty, Programme Co-ordinator, (416) 226-9011.

Millennium calendar fundraiser

Lisa Daulby

The Archives Association of Ontario (AAO) is involved in the production and sale of a millennium calendar featuring "Milestones in Information and Communication Technology." The proceeds will go towards the Ontario Archival Union List (AULO) project.

The AAO, a non-profit cultural heritage organization promotes the preservation and use of

documentary materials. Through AULO, they are creating a comprehensive on-line listing of the documentary heritage of Ontario which will be a searchable, user-friendly, internet accessible database of descriptions of archival holdings in Ontario.

The calendar goes on sale in May 1999. To place your order call Lisa Daulby (416) 694-2258.

Royal remembrances

Robert Leverty

In 1914, Herman McConnell moved with his family to a farm in the Beaver Valley in Grey County. For the next 75 years, Herman farmed and planted thousands upon thousands of trees in the Beaver Valley.

In June 1939, Herman and his brother Hershel travelled to Orangeville to meet the Royal Train which was carrying the Sovereign of Canada, His Majesty King George VI and his consort Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Suddenly, from one of the royal cars, Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, appeared and began to distribute royal oak seedlings. Herman and his brother proudly returned to the Beaver Valley to plant their two royal oaks. The two seedlings thrived and eventually they produced thousands of acorns which were planted in the valley.

In 1973, I bought a farm in the Beaver Valley. My good neighbour Herman taught me all about trees and wildlife. For many years, I planted seedlings

and walnuts under Herman's careful guidance. In 1985, Herman gave me a royal oak seedling which has also thrived and last year it produced hundreds of majestic acorns. It was a great thrill to plant these splendid acorns last October and November on my farm.

In anticipation of the 50th birthday of Prince Charles, I sent some of my acorns to an old friend who works with the Prince's Trust. He gave the royal oak acorns to Prince Charles and told him the above story which resulted in the following letter:—

St. James's Palace

16th December 1998

Dear Mr. Leverty:

I was delighted to receive your marvellous gift of acorns for my birthday. They were among the most unusual, but most treasured of my presents—they carry with them some very special history.

I am so pleased that my grandparents' tour in 1939 is still remembered so vividly...I asked

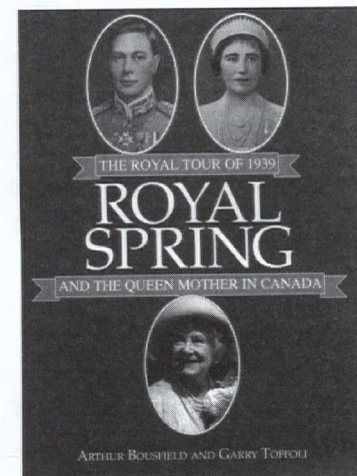
my grandmother about it recently.

This comes with my heartfelt thanks and warmest good wishes.

Yours most sincerely

Charles

You can also relive? enjoy? the Royal Tour of 1939. For your copy of *Royal Spring: The Royal Tour of 1939 and the Queen Mother in Canada* contact the OHS. Through the generosity of Dundurn Press we have several copies! Call (416) 226-9011.



War brides project

Janice Sutton

In November 1997 the Lennox and Addington Historical Society embarked on a project to locate and record information about the war brides who had settled in the county. This continued a previous project that recorded information about World War II veterans in Lennox and Addington County.

Over a one year period 45 war brides were located, each of whom filled out a form asking such information as where they were born, maiden names, date and place of marriage, and parent's names and addresses. Some of the brides provided photographs and accounts of their courtship, marriage, departure from home, and arrival in Canada. The brides hailed from England, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium and the Netherlands.

On November 8, 1998 the Lennox and Addington Museum

and the Historical Society hosted an evening tribute to the war brides attended by 16 of the war brides and their families. Local and Kingston media covered the event, which was a great success; highlights were a sing-along of World War II songs and the presentation to each bride of a booklet containing the information from their questionnaires and some of the pictures they had supplied. The brides who were not

in attendance also received copies of the booklet, which is now on sale to the public.

Jennifer Bunting, County Archivist, put the booklet together, and oversees the County Archives where the questionnaires now rest, available for future researchers.

For information on this project, contact Janice Sutton (613) 378-2189 after April 1.



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The several classes of membership in the Society are: Individual/Institution/Organisation \$20.00; Family \$25.00; Sustaining \$50.00; Life \$300.00; Benefactor \$1000.00. Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The *OHS Bulletin* is sent free of charge to all members of the Society.

The Society's biannual scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, is available to member individuals for \$21.40 per year, member organizations and institutions and non-member individuals for \$32.10 and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$42.80.

Enquiries concerning submissions and advertising rates should be directed to the OHS, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2 (416) 226-9011 or fax (416) 226-2740

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